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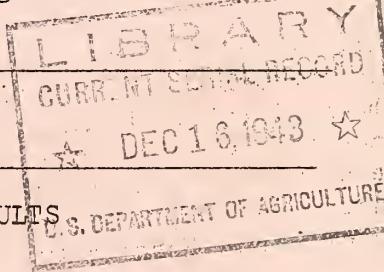


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Extension Service - United States Department of Agriculture

WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS  
BASED ON STATE REPORTS



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The main reports in this week's summary are on the emergency farm labor program; food preservation and conservation; activities of negro extension workers; feed supply; and a well-organized State-wide nutrition program.

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NEW YORK

November 1, 1943

Seasonal labor.--Peak demand for seasonal labor is now past. Snap beans were about only crop of which much was lost for lack of labor, although number of individual farmers lost parts of various crops.

Labor program has been very well handled. Farmers and their families worked exceptionally long hours at high speed. Camp workers, school children, part-time business and industrial workers, all performed well. Some of most acute labor needs were met by troops, a number of whom were replaced later by war prisoners. In about 6 weeks complete report of labor program and results will be available.

Victory Gardens.--Complete reports are not yet ready, but record performance is indicated. Interesting report comes from Victory Gardens Cannery, of Mount Kisco, in New York City suburban area. About 600 persons who joined in canning project concluded 1943 season with 29,579 quarts of canned food, more than double 1942 output. Over half of canned food, 16,500 quarts, was given to schools and hospitals. On last day of operation, 151 chickens were canned. Bones were thrown into common pot for soup, to yield 100 quarts.

Winter programs.--Series of regional conferences between county agricultural agents and selected specialists has been held to plan county programs for winter. Agents were found to be in need of two things--opportunity to relax briefly, and chance to catch up on some changes and adjustments in farm practices that have taken place so rapidly. Comparatively heavy turn-over in county agent staff has aggravated problem of maintaining morale and keeping abreast of rapid economic developments while dealing with heavy pressure of local detail.

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NOVEMBER 13, 1943

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Income taxes. - More than usual number of farmers will have to file income tax return - some for first time. War emergency bulletin on subject has been distributed widely and preliminary instructions given to county agents for December return. Later, agents and a few others, such as bankers, teachers of vocational agriculture, and real estate agents, who help farmers prepare returns, will be given further instructions on preparation of March return.

Feed mobilization program. - Work under this caption was begun last December. It has been effective in discouraging expansion and in some building up of moderate grain inventories on farms. Careful culling of poultry has been encouraged. Aim of program has been to keep established dairy and poultry enterprises intact for maximum production of milk and eggs.

Bang's disease. - More than 12,300 dairy herds in State have been enrolled in Bang's disease control program. In past 2 months, 2,000 herds were enrolled as compared with 800 in same 2 months of 1942. About 9,000 calves were vaccinated in same period. State pays cost of vaccinating. Milking herds are blood-tested annually to discover infected cows for removal. Most counties have appropriated funds to help pay for blood tests.

Nutrition program. - Seven regional nutrition conferences covering State were attended by 608 members of county and city nutrition committees. Latest information on food supplies and other economic factors affecting food was presented by specialists. Representatives of State department of education explained school lunch and other Federal programs. Field staff members of State Office of Civilian Mobilization took part in discussions of nutrition committee organization. Those attending learned how nutrition committees pool resources of all organizations and agencies concerned with food, health, and nutrition programs, to reach thousands of additional homes. Committees send letters to organizations, such as church groups, women's clubs, parent-teacher associations, and granges, inviting each to select "food information leader" to attend training schools and demonstrations and take information back to club members at regular meetings.

Syracuse city committee, following this plan, quickly received names of more than 200 food information leaders. Committee will hold first training school for these leaders early in November. They expect enrollment of nearly 200 additional leaders from city's more than 600 organizations before end of month.

State-wide food and nutrition training school will be held at college of home economics in mid-November for 225 home economists who serve as teachers for county and city nutrition committees.

VIRGINIA

October 1, 1943

Farm labor. - Leading farmers and county agents report more cooperation in exchange of labor and machinery than ever before. State labor supervisors credit farmers themselves with solving much of State's farm labor problem. During year, 14 camps for foreign labor, vacationists, Boy Scouts, and other nonfarm workers were put in operation. Main job ahead is to supply year-round workers. Demand is for approximately 500 families but supply exceedingly limited.

In peanut area, all schools closed to allow older children to help with harvest. Some schools closed at noon each day; others suspended work entirely for week or more. From 100 to 150 British sailors have spent shore leave in peanut harvest. They work a week at a time in groups, staying at farm homes. Farmers and farmers' wives are well pleased with their work and gentlemanly conduct.

On Eastern Shore and around Norfolk, 800 Bahamians are helping to harvest sweet-potatoes, beans, and fall truck. Ten extension specialists helped in farm emergency by "beating the bushes" in southwest Virginia for apple pickers. Approximately 75 men, mostly from small farms where harvest is over, have gone from about 10 counties to apple area. Dry weather, plus fact that apple-product plants have been working only one 12-hour shift instead of usual two, has eased labor demand in apple area, but demand still exceeds supply.

Food Conservation. - Homemaking committee of county boards of agriculture in Frederick, Rockingham, and Rockbridge Counties estimated that in good season about \$15 worth of fruits and vegetables is wasted each week on more productive farms. Therefore, they worked out systems for marketing these surpluses and relieving food shortages in larger cities. Frederick used curb market where 26 farmers disposed of surplus at average of \$15 a seller per week, but could not meet demand. With normal weather and transportation, sales would have been much larger.

Rockingham set up "telephone market." Home demonstration women made survey by mail of Harrisonburg citizens; 500 families returned survey sheets showing canning requirements. Secretary of market was appointed to whom farmers with surplus telephoned and got names of town women who wished food. Sales by bushel were delivered to customers. Town women kept secretary busy with orders for food.

Rockbridge set up central market where town women left order for following week. Though drought cut operations to 6 weeks, enterprise was considered highly successful. Farm women not only passed along canning information but sometimes took pressure cooker to customer's home, gave demonstration, and left cooker there on loan. Others brought canner along to market to be taken home by buyers for a day.

Dairying. - Milk production around Winchester is especially critical because of feed shortage. Cost surveys was made on 23 farms in area to establish basis for adjustments in management. Tabulation and analysis were studied in meeting of dairy-men and adjustments recommended to bolster production and keep down or reduce production cost.

Specialists participated in tour of TVA, power company, and agricultural college representatives from seven Southeastern States to see hay driers on farms in Washington and Smyth Counties. They discussed value of hay driers in producing high-quality hay to reduce need for supplemental protein feeds in dairy rations. Visitors were impressed with quality of hay-drier product. Virginia State Dairy men's Association and extension departments are following up drier project as war production measure.

County agents and representatives of milk processors visited Glade Spring Experiment Station to observe results of crop rotations, fertilization, and soil-management. Their object was to improve practices on farms in Roanoke, Franklin, Floyd, and Montgomery Counties for greater feed production.

Five more counties held milking contests among 4-H members in September. So far, 200 have participated, and more contests are to be held. Better methods of hand milking are getting wide recognition. Thirty county- 4-H dairy demonstrations are making definite contribution to war effort. Boys and girls have two or more dairy animals in home herd to look after as step in learning herd feeding and management.

In addition to activity concerning feed shortage, especially in drought area, dairy specialists have assisted with three breed sales for further improvement of dairy stock; have worked on mastitis control in vicinity of Marion where outbreak has given much trouble; and have trained supervisors of dairy herd improvement associations so that they might assist farmers in general management problems. Herd-improvement program has 500 enrolled.

Pork production. - Two sales of 4-H fat pigs were held: At Salem 122 pigs brought owners \$3,343.60 plus \$141 in prizes; at Orange 30 pigs sold for \$986.95. In all, these sales put 32,000 pounds of pork on market. Victory pig sale at Marshall netted \$5,000 in bonds and stamps. Three similar sales were arranged in southwest Virginia.

Agronomy. - Farmers are urged to order fertilizer now to permit manufacturers to judge demand and fill orders during winter rather than on short notice in spring. Farmers are also advised to save seed of early-maturing varieties of soybeans to plant in 1944, when record quantities of this type of seed will be needed to meet production goals.

Negro extension activities. - In Pittsylvania County one negro leader and one negro home demonstration club obtained pressure cookers, raising county total to 17 for individuals and 6 for clubs. New individual cooker served 6 families and new club cooker 10 families. Three leaders attended demonstration on home food storage and will demonstrate to other groups.

"You hurt my feelings," is criticism visited upon noncanners in Amherst County by negro home agent, who writes: "Some of the women who had not taken home canning seriously before are doing so now and seem to take more pride in the work than some of the old canners. One women said, 'Do you remember giving me a lift on a hot day during the summer? You asked how much canning I had done and when I said not any, you said that I had hurt your feelings. Well, I went home and got busy. Now I have over 200 cans of vegetables, fruits, and jelly. I am still canning everything that I can find!'"

In four clubs of Halifax County 37 negro women put on "whole meal contest" that reached 11 communities. At meetings each woman was given pencil and pad on which she wrote her favorite dinner menu with notes on preparation. On back she made rough drawing, for identification purposes, of her favorite fruit, vegetable, fowl, or meat animal. All contributions were placed in basket from which drawings were made, and each menu was discussed and scored according to nutrition standards. About a third were good, a third fair, and a third poor.

Negro State and district agents conducted State-wide leaders' meeting in Greenville County with 101 delegates. These represented 36 counties, 647 communities, and 2,642 community and neighborhood leaders who have direct contact with 25,937 farm families to keep them informed on wartime activities. Reports by leader delegates showed that negro farmers are putting more stress than ever before on Food for Victory program, producing more livestock and crops, and buying stamps and bonds.

Adult community clubs of Esmont, in Albemarle County, conducted school garden to grow variety of vegetables to be used by school children for hot lunches this winter. With assistance of 4-H Club leader, members canned 313 quarts of vegetables.

In Essex County farm labor is main problem. Negro farmers have cooperated in every way with program to keep commerce open and harvest going. Women work at factories in the day processing tomatoes, and men work at night processing black-eyed peas. In one community, work on Sunday was necessary to prevent spoilage of food. Workers have also been rotated from one factory to another.

Negro 4-H Club members in Caroline County are doing fine job. Good example is Clarence James, 14 years old, member of Union High 4-H Club. He carries fat-pig project. His father bought hog for him in spring. Clarence put in spare time helping neighbors who were short of labor. He earned enough to repay his father for pig, have it vaccinated, and buy war savings stamps. Little cash was needed for food since he used surplus vegetables from family Victory Garden. Clarence also helped in garden, from which 400 quarts of vegetables have been canned. He led his club and county in collection of 88 phonograph records as his share in ambulance drive. What Clarence James is doing is typical of what other 4-H Club members all over County are doing in war effort.

Negro agents in most counties are teaching farm families how to store potatoes, beets, carrots, onions, and other root crops for winter. In King and Queen County, 111 farm families witnessed demonstration in which model storage house was built. Mound storage is also demonstrated as cheap and convenient for root crops.

Since Dinwiddie County's feed shortage was increased by drought, farmers worked up cooperative movement to bring in 1,800-bushel carload of Government feed at \$1 a bushel.

In many counties, negro agents are helping farmers in meeting feed shortage with information on sowing fall grain and improving pastures; on culling poultry; and on improved methods of feeding for egg production.

